

CLAIMS**What is claimed is:**

1. An anesthesia scavenging apparatus comprising:
a housing having a plurality of vents and an outlet;
a vacuum source connected to the outlet; and
means for positioning the housing proximate to a patient's mouth.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a tube.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the tube comprises two closed ends and the outlet is positioned centrally between the ends.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising fasteners at the ends of the tube for attaching the tube ends together to position the tube about a patient's neck.
5. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising a band interconnectable with the ends of the tube for supporting the tube about a patient's neck.
6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the tube is rigid.
7. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the tube is O-shaped.
8. An anesthesia scavenging system, comprising;
a collar with at least one vent, the collar sized to be positioned about a patient's neck; and
a vacuum source in fluid communication with the collar.
9. The system of claim 8 wherein the collar comprises a tube.
10. The system of claim 9 wherein the tube has closed ends.
11. The system of claim 9 wherein the tube has closed ends and is secured about a patient's neck by releasably interconnectable tabs.
12. The system of claim 9 wherein the tube has closed ends and is retained about a patient's neck by a strap.
13. The system of claim 8, wherein the collar comprises a continuous tube.
14. The system of claim 8 wherein a vacuum line connecting the collar with the vacuum source is interconnected with a nasal mask vacuum line.
15. The system of claim 14 further comprising a tee which connects the vacuum line from the collar to the nasal mask vacuum line, and connects both vacuum lines to a vacuum source.

16. A method of removing anesthetic gas exhaled by a patient being nasally administered an anesthetic gas comprising:

placing a perforated housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient;

connecting the perforated housing to a vacuum source; and

applying a vacuum to the housing to remove exhaled anesthetic gas from proximity to the mouth of the patient.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the housing comprises a continuous tube and the step of placing the housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient comprises placing the continuous tube over a patient's head to rest about a patient's neck.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the housing comprises a tube with closed ends and the step of placing the housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient comprises positioning the tube about a patient's neck and interconnecting the ends.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of placing the housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient comprises suspending the housing about a patient's neck using a strap connected to the housing.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein the housing comprises a tube and the step of placing the housing in proximity to the mouth of a patient comprising draping the tube over a patient's chest and shoulder.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of connecting the perforated housing to a vacuum source comprises connecting the housing to a nasal mask vacuum line.